

An opportunity for Wisconsin 8th graders



Accept the challenge
Sign the pledge
Succeed in high school
Go to college

A partnership program between

Office of the Governor
Jim Doyle



WisconsinCovenant.wi.gov

- ☐ **Are you in 8th grade?**
- ☐ **Are you a Wisconsin resident and do you attend school in Wisconsin?**
- ☐ **Do you plan to graduate from a Wisconsin high school?**
- ☐ **Are you thinking about going to school after high school?**
- ☐ **Are you willing to work hard and do your best while you're in high school?**

**If you answered yes to all of these questions,
then you can sign the Wisconsin Covenant Pledge.**

When students sign the Wisconsin Covenant Pledge, they are setting goals. They are committing to themselves, their families, their schools, and their communities that as soon as they enter high school they will be focused on doing well. They are setting goals for high school so they are prepared for college.

As soon as a student signs the pledge and returns it to the Office of the Wisconsin Covenant, that student becomes a member of the Wisconsin Covenant Community. As a part of this community, students will join other students with the same goal - to attend a University of Wisconsin system school, a Wisconsin technical college or a Wisconsin private college or university. Wisconsin Covenant Students will hear about special opportunities available in their community and on college campuses. The Office of the Wisconsin Covenant will also be in touch with students throughout high school to check on progress.

When a student successfully completes all aspects of the Wisconsin Covenant Pledge, that student will be recognized as a Wisconsin Covenant Scholar during senior year. When a student is designated as a Wisconsin Covenant Scholar, people will know that student achieved goals that were set in 8th grade. At that time, the Wisconsin Covenant Community will work with Wisconsin Covenant Scholars to make sure they have a place at a Wisconsin post-secondary institution and financial assistance to attend that school if their family needs it. If during senior year a student decides to attend a school out of state or if the family does not need financial assistance, the student will still be recognized as a Wisconsin Covenant Scholar.

If for some reason a student does not fulfill the pledge requirements, that student can still apply to colleges and for financial aid. Not being recognized as a Wisconsin Covenant Scholar does not prohibit anyone from attending a post-secondary school.

Wisconsin Covenant Students are ultimately responsible for their success in high school and doing all that they can to prepare for college. Wisconsin Covenant Students will get an extra hand so they can stay focused on their goal of a post-secondary education.

Students enrolled in the 8th grade during the 2006-2007 school year must return their signed copy of the Wisconsin Covenant Pledge by September 14, 2007. Students are encouraged to join before the end of the school year in order to receive news and information from the Wisconsin Covenant Community during the summer. Students can mail their signed pledge to the Office of the Wisconsin Covenant, PO Box 7869, Madison, WI 53707 or can join online at <http://WisconsinCovenant.wi.gov>.

The Wisconsin Covenant Pledge has three parts. The first part is a set of goals for students. The second is what students can expect during high school and the third part is what students can expect once they are recognized as Wisconsin Covenant Scholars. Here's an explanation of what students can focus on now and what student will need to do in order to be recognized as a Wisconsin Covenant Scholar.

I will graduate from a Wisconsin high school.

Now:

Students are encouraged to tell friends and family of their goal to graduate from high school.

To be recognized as a Wisconsin Covenant Scholar:

The student must receive a diploma from a Wisconsin high school.

I will maintain a B average while in high school.

Now:

Students should challenge themselves to do their best in every class in high school. Students can do well by:

- Attending and participating in all classes
- Studying for tests and quizzes
- Completing all homework assignments
- Asking for help if needed

If a student receives a grade lower than a B in a class, they are still a Wisconsin Covenant Student. Students will need to demonstrate a B average in order to be recognized as a Wisconsin Covenant Scholar.

To be recognized as a Wisconsin Covenant Scholar:

The student has a career cumulative GPA of 2.85 (on a 4.0 scale) or higher.

or

The student earned a GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or higher for at least 5 semesters and never earned less than a 2.0 in any semester.

or

The student earned a GPA of 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) during senior year and has shown consistent improvement since the beginning of high school.

or

If the school does not use a GPA system, the student can show similar achievement through the school's assessment methods.

I will take classes in high school that will prepare me for entrance into higher education and will meet or exceed college entrance requirements.

Now:

Students should take classes in high school that will prepare them for the college or university they want to attend. Students will be encouraged to take classes that prepare them best for college, not because they believe the class will be easy.

To be recognized as a Wisconsin Covenant Scholar:

There is not a list of mandatory classes that a student must take. A student successfully meets this standard if their course load meets the requirements for the college(s) they apply to.

I will demonstrate good citizenship and engage in activities that support my community.

Now:

In addition to staying out of trouble, students will be asked to get involved in activities that have a positive effect on their community. This could be through their school, church, or other community organization.

To be recognized as a Wisconsin Covenant Scholar:

The student was involved in extra curricular activities that contain an element of community service and can document at least 30 hours of service.

or

The student was involved in a school sponsored service learning experience that meets a high school graduation requirement.

or

The student designed his/her own service learning experience and shared results and reflections with teachers and peers.

Additionally:

The student has not been convicted of a felony or serious misdemeanor and has not been permanently expelled from any school. If the student was suspended (in-school or out-of-school) at any time during high school, the student will need to demonstrate substantial personal growth through letters of recommendation by members of their community or school.

I will apply for state and federal financial aid in a timely manner.

Now: Students will learn about financial aid in high school. They will also receive information from the Office of the Wisconsin Covenant.

To be recognized as a Wisconsin Covenant Scholar: All students should plan to file the Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the end of February of their senior year.

I will apply and do all that is necessary to gain admission to a University of Wisconsin system institution, Wisconsin Technical College, and/or Wisconsin private college or university.

Now: Students are encouraged to learn about all post-secondary schools and think about what schools or programs look most interesting. It's never too early to start looking.

To be recognized as a Wisconsin Covenant Scholar: Students should apply and do all that is necessary to gain admission to a post-secondary school. Students are advised to apply to other schools in addition to their top choice.

As a Wisconsin Covenant Student I can expect:

Support from the Wisconsin Covenant Community.

Students that sign the Wisconsin Covenant Pledge are members of the Wisconsin Covenant Community. The Wisconsin Covenant Community also includes

- Office of the Wisconsin Covenant
- Office of the Governor
- Department of Public Instruction
- State of Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board
- Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
- Wisconsin Technical College System
- University of Wisconsin System

Wisconsin Covenant Students can expect to periodically receive news and information from these organizations as soon as they enroll in the program.

When I successfully fulfill all Wisconsin Covenant requirements, I can expect:

Recognition as a Wisconsin Covenant Scholar.

During the senior year of high school, the Office of the Wisconsin Covenant will be in contact with each Wisconsin Covenant Student to explain all deadlines and steps one needs to take in order to be recognized as a Wisconsin Covenant Scholar.

The student is responsible for completing the Wisconsin Covenant Scholar Checklist and having the school principal, or the principal's designee, validate the checklist. The checklist will verify that the student has fulfilled each part of the Wisconsin Covenant Pledge. The student is then responsible for returning the completed checklist to the Office of the Wisconsin Covenant.

Once a student submits his/her completed Wisconsin Covenant Scholar Checklist, the Office of the Wisconsin Covenant will be responsible for informing the State of Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board, the University of Wisconsin System, the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the Wisconsin Technical College System of the student's status.

A place in a University of Wisconsin system institution, Wisconsin Technical College, or Wisconsin private college or university.

The University of Wisconsin System, Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and Wisconsin Technical College System will work to identify a place for each scholar. If possible, the Scholar will be placed in the higher education system of their choice.

However, Wisconsin Covenant Scholars are not guaranteed acceptance into the school of their choice. Scholars are ultimately responsible for achieving the level of excellence necessary to earn acceptance into Wisconsin's more selective schools.

A financial aid package based on my family's federally-defined financial need.

A family's financial need is determined by the FAFSA. The financial aid package may include, but is not limited to, grants, loans, scholarships, and work study that will help make higher education more attainable for each Wisconsin Covenant Scholar. Wisconsin Covenant Students will apply for financial aid in the same way all students apply and will need to meet all existing eligibility requirements in order to receive financial aid.

Questions?

Please contact the Office of the Wisconsin Covenant at WisconsinCovenant@wi.gov or at 608-267-9389.